

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 CIEP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 /104 W

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R 121907Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 03863

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: INITIAL UK REACTION TO THE DUBLIN SUMMIT

REF: DUBLIN 462

1. THE BRITISH PRESS ON MARCH 12 WELCOMED THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF EC RENEGOTIATION AT THE DUBLIN SUMMIT. THE DELIBERATIONS WERE VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS "A TENSE CLIMAX" (FINANCIAL TIMES) AND "RITUAL TABLE-THUMPING" (THE GUARDIAN).

2. IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE MEETING, PRIME MINISTER WILSON WAS CAREFULLY NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RESULTS, PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET.

HE LEFT A CLEAR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONSIDERS RENEGOTIATION TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS, AND THAT HE WILL CAMPAIGN FOR BRITAIN TO STAY IN THE COMMUNITY. "WE HAVE NOW TAKEN THE DISCUSSIONS AS FAR AS THEY WILL GO, AND WE KNOW WHERE WE STAND. WE HAVE NO FURTHER ISSUES TO RAISE....IF THE CABINET RECOMMENDS THESE TERMS, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND I, AND A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET, WILL CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE.... WHETHER THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH IS FOR THE BRITISH PEOPLE TO DECIDE."

3. AN EDITORIAL IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF MARCH 12, SAID THAT RENEGOTIATION "HAS BEEN A MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE THAN IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO HOPE A YEAR AGO." WILSON HAS PRESERVED THE UNITY OF THE LABOUR PARTY AND HAS SECURED CERTAIN CHANGES IN BRITAIN'S TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP. ALSO, IN THE COURSE OF ACHIEVING THE RESULTS OF RENEGOTIATION, "THE COMMUNITY HAS DEVELOPED A GROWING IDENTITY OF INTERESTS....IT IS THIS INTANGIBLE GAIN WHICH WOULD BE ONE OF THE CHIEF CASUALTIES IF, DESPITE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RENEGOTIATION, BRITAIN WERE TO OPT OUT."

RICHARDSON

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